



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

July 12, 2016

Reply To
Attn Of: OWW-191

CERTIFIED MAIL- RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Van Grossnicklaus
1900 Woodworth Road
Grandview, WA 98930-9768

Re: NPDES Permit No.: IDG-37-0228, South Fork Clearwater River
Small Suction Dredge Mining
Miner number: 259

Dear Van Grossnicklaus:

This letter is to inform you that you are authorized to operate a small suction dredge in the South Fork of the Clearwater River, at approximately 45.8303 N. Latitude, -115.561553 W. Longitude¹, near the city of Elk City, Idaho under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Small Suction Dredge Placer Miners in Idaho (General Permit). Please note that you are authorized to operate a suction dredge only in the receiving water(s) listed in this letter. If you plan to dredge in a different location, please submit a new Notice of Intent at least 60 days in advance of any planned dredging, and wait for written authorization from EPA before discharging at the new location.

You must keep a copy of this letter and the enclosed General Permit at the dredge site at all times. Enclosed are two copies of your "Miner Number" (259) which must be displayed on your dredge and in a vehicle near your dredge site. Authorization under this General Permit does not relieve you from the requirement to obtain a permit from the Idaho Department of Water Resources and/or from complying with any additional closures and timing restrictions.

Please note that an Endangered Species Act (ESA) opinion has been issued by both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries, pursuant to section 7 of the Act, on the effects of the Small-Scale Suction Dredging in the South Fork Clearwater River Project, proposed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office [*Section 7 Consultation for Suction Dredging on USFS and BLM Managed Lands on the South Fork Clearwater—Concurrence (Refer to: FWS Ref: 01EIFW00-2016-I-0597; CONS-100(a), NMFS No: WCR-2015-3013)*].

You must work with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to ensure that your operation is in compliance with the mitigation measures detailed in their ESA consultation documents; the USFS is responsible for enforcing these conditions². To contact the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests about this requirement, please call Clint Hughes at (208) 983-5146, or Dan Kenney at (208) 476-8319. As a reminder, the South Fork Clearwater River is open to dredging between July 15 and August 15. Yours is one of only 15 operations allowed in the South Fork Clearwater River.

¹ These coordinates were verified by the USFS and represent the upper portion of the primary dredging reach, on the streambank closest to the highway.

² These measures will be incorporated into and required for the approval of every Plan of Operations.

Please also note, you must comply with all of the requirements in the General Permit, including the monitoring and reporting requirements found in Part II.C. An Annual Report is due to the EPA at the following address by January 31 of each year for the previous year's activities:

US EPA Region 10
Attn: NPDES Compliance Unit, OCE-101
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

The Annual Report must include all of the information found in Appendix B of the General Permit, or a report of "No Mining." A courtesy copy of the Annual Report form is enclosed and can also be found on our website at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/npdes+permits/idsuction-gp>. Remember to provide a copy of your Annual Report to the appropriate Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Regional Office as well (Part III.B.).

This General Permit expires on December 31, 2016. If, prior to this time, you no longer need coverage under the General Permit, or you have a new mailing address, please inform the EPA so that we can properly document your inactivity and provide any reminders for reporting and/or renewing the General Permit.

Your activities may be subject to other local, state, and federal permits and certifications. This letter does not relieve you of your obligation to obtain all other appropriate permits and permission, including approval of your Plan of Operations by the USFS or BLM. If you have technical questions regarding this permit please contact Tracy DeGering in our Idaho Operations Office in Boise at degering.tracy@epa.gov or (208) 378-5756.

Sincerely,

for Tracy DeGering
Michael J. Lidgard, Manager
NPDES Permits Unit

Enclosures

cc: John Cardwell (John.Cardwell@deq.idaho.gov) – Idaho Dept of Environmental Quality, Lewiston Regional Office
Clint Hughes (cehughes02@fs.fed.us) – U.S. Forest Service, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests



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**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for
Small Suction Dredge Mining in Idaho**

Permit Number: IDG-37-0228, South Fork Clearwater River

Dredge Owner: Van Grossnicklaus

Date of Issuance: July 12, 2016

Expiration Date: December 31, 2016

EPA Staff Signature: _____

Tracy DeGering
Tracy DeGering

Please display this documentation on your dredge and in a vehicle near your dredge site.

Suction Dredge Miner Number:

00259



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